

## NATIONAL BOARD OF RELIGIOUS INSPECTORS AND ADVISERS



**Directors of Religious Education: Thursday 10 November, online from 10.00**

### **Those Present**

Deborah Fox – President – Hexham and Newcastle  
Peter Ward – NBRIA Vice Chair – Cardiff  
Kate Bailey – Middlesbrough  
Paul Barber – CES  
Sarah Barreto – Northampton  
Maria Cowler – Arundel and Brighton  
Amanda Crowley – Westminster  
Maggie Duggan – Birmingham  
Julie Jones - Lancaster  
Michael Merrick - Lancaster  
Peter Moore – Salford  
Tom Reilly – East Anglia  
Philip Robinson – CES

### *Opening Prayer*

### **Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate.

### **NBRIA Constitution**

There have been several meetings to date with helpful consultations particularly during the York Conference. We are now confident that the draft document is the way forward. This will be presented for (hopeful) approval at the AGM. Prior to that meeting the draft will be sent out to members. We are grateful to Paul Barber and Peter Ward for their ongoing commitment to this task.

### **Religious Education Directory**

The RED was signed off by the bishops on 31 October. Parts 1 & 2 are now being formatted into a presentable style. The document will be shared with diocesan departments BUT NOT with schools until the launch on 25 January, feast of the Conversion of St Paul. There will be PDF and digital versions. There will also be a written response to the consultation process that took place last academic year. Heartfelt gratitude continues to be offered to Philip for his ongoing and immense work during all stages of preparation, and as we proceed to the launch.

### **Secondary Religious Education Teachers Recruitment and Supply**

Peter Ward has data from his longitudinal study that will be shared in due course. Currently there are some sixty-four advertisements in the public domain. Of these, twenty are from

Catholic schools. Successful recruitment is essential. The demand for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programmes are down in numbers by some 25%, which has resulted in a significant number of schools and several centres of higher education ceasing to be providers. The Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education is particularly concerned by this overall shortfall. St Mary's Twickenham, Newman Birmingham, Liverpool Hope, and Trinity Leeds are still offering provision. Within our Catholic landscape we have a progression route from schools to universities that needs maximum dialogue and action that will promote robust recruitment and training.

### **Working group to produce draft job descriptions and person specifications for the appointment of secondary heads of Religious Education**

The quality of many current advertisements are causes for concern. A significant number appear to be produced from a HR context that can lack knowledge and understanding of the required Catholic dimension and canonical inclusions. It was agreed that a working group be constituted from the membership of our DREs and Secondary Advisers. The aim is to provide generic best practice documents that can be shared across dioceses. The group will work in liaison with the CES legal team.

### **SACREs**

The NBRIA working group continues to meet regularly. A draft document is being produced that focuses on the expectations of the SACRE representative. This will be checked for accuracy by Westminster's Chair of the Education Commission.

### **LGBTQ+**

This item will remain on our agenda to ensure diocesan awareness of Church Teaching, an access to approved resources and training. There was excellent input at the recent DSC Cardiff Conference, that has now been shared. Amanda Crowley and Trisha Hedley in Westminster continue to undertake quality CPD provision.

### **Other Business**

- **Education Sunday:** This has passed and as usual the CES sent out resources. Feedback would be useful.
- **Education Post at St Mary's University:** Peter Ward will circulate details for DREs to consider sharing.
- **Rome Conference:** This takes place 27-31 March at Palazzola. Details have been sent to dioceses. Please contact the NBRIA Secretary for details. We now have twenty-one of the thirty places filled.
- **NBRIA Membership Subscriptions:** Please ensure that your diocese has paid its annual £30 per NBRIA member. Maggie Duggan our Treasurer is anxious to close off this financial round.
- **Catholic Project:** A report was requested regarding writing groups progress in *Come and See*, and *People of God*,
- **GCSE Performance:** Philip Robinson sent the data request to all dioceses. The closing date was 4 November. The response has been good but there are still a significant number of schools to follow-up. The public data is published usually in March.
- **DREs Agenda:** Please continue to populate this in advance of our meetings.

**Areas for Action**

1. Circulation of draft Constitution prior to AGM,
2. Peter Ward to circulate details of Education post at St Mary's University,
3. RED to be shared at this stage with diocesan offices,
4. Peter Ward to share longitudinal data on supply and retention of teachers of Religious Education,
5. Chair of Secondary Advisers to be asked to convene a DRE/Secondary Advisers Working Group for preparation of model job description/person specification for teachers of Religious Education,
6. SACREs; Item to remain on agenda,
7. LGBTQ: Item to remain on agenda,
8. Annual feedback on quality of resources for Education Sunday,
9. Rome Conference 27-31 March: Further details from NBRIA Secretary,
10. Ensure diocesan payment of NBRIA subscriptions,
11. Catholic Project Report for next meeting and
12. Check with our schools that GCSE data has reached Philip Robinson.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 23 March 10-12 online

**Meeting Closed at 10.45**

*Closing Prayer and Blessing*

*DPM 15/11/22*